

Mr. President, I make a point order a quorum is not present.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. COATS). The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, I think in this continuing effort for the freshman and sophomore class to bring something of a unique view to this Senate, we have set aside, I believe, a half an hour.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct. The Senator is recognized under the previous order to speak in morning business for up to 30 minutes.

Mr. THOMAS. I thank the Chair. I would like now to yield to the Senator from Tennessee.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

#### RESTORING THE BONDS OF TRUST

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, it is a real pleasure to be able to join my fellow freshmen and sophomores with a message that has been consistent. It is a message asking for the courage of the American people to come forward to accomplish the agenda that has been set out in a very clear fashion.

Politics, like medicine, must be based on trust. Without trust, people lose more than their faith in Government. They lose all hope, hope that life in the future will be better than in the past.

That is why in the 1994 campaign, Republicans pledged not just to change politics but to restore the bonds of trust between the people and their elected representatives, to make us all proud once again of the way free people govern themselves.

The ideal of freedom and opportunity, which is the spiritual strength of our Nation, is what motivated our Founding Fathers. That ideal is what motivates us today.

As the poet Archie MacLeish once remarked in a debate about national purpose, "There are those who reply that the liberation of humanity, the freedom of man and mind, is nothing but a dream. They are right. It is. It is the American dream."

Mr. President, we can no longer sacrifice the future, the future of our children, by clinging to the past. We must work to restore the American dream for our children and for our grandchildren, but that means keeping our promises.

Keeping our promise to balance the budget means a better life for all Americans. As interest rates fall and productivity rises, all Americans will enjoy a higher standard of living.

Keeping our promise to save and strengthen Medicare means that for the first time seniors will have a voice but also a choice, and the Medicare system will be preserved for that next generation.

Keeping our promise to cut taxes means that all Americans who have watched their tax burden grow from as little as 2 to 5 percent in 1950 to almost 50 percent today will finally get to keep more of what they earn.

Keeping our promise to end welfare as a way of life means that the cycle of poverty that has trapped a generation of families in welfare will at last be broken and parents will be able to regain their pride and their dignity through work and personal responsibility.

It is a time to change. It is a time to call upon the courage of legislators, of representatives, and of the American people to recognize and carry out this change.

The decisions we make today will determine our future. Let us go forward with hope, confident that the future we leave to our children and to their children will be brighter than our past.

That is the legacy of our parents and that their parents left to them. It is the legacy all Americans inherited from our Founding Fathers, the legacy of the American dream. Let us not be the first generation who fails to pass it on.

Mr. President, I thank the Chair, and I yield floor.

Mr. THOMAS addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. THOMAS. I yield myself such time as I usefully use.

Mr. President, I congratulate my friend from Tennessee, who has certainly been a leader in the Medicare-Medicaid propositions that have come forward. He has been a leader partially because of his experience as a physician, but also having a very strong commitment to move forward in the changes that need to be made in order to strengthen and preserve these programs so that they will be useful. So I congratulate my friend.

#### LET US TALK ABOUT THE FACTS

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, we have been talking now for some time and will continue to talk, certainly through this month. I hope much of the bill will be completed within the next month so it will come to a closure that will be useful to the American people. I am confident that it will.

In the meantime, I think it is important that we continue to talk about what it is we are seeking to do, that we continue to foster an understanding in the country of what the issues are that we are talking about. I have expressed before and again say that I am very concerned that in this democracy, in this country, this Government of the people and by the people and for the people, that we need to have facts upon which each of us can make the deci-

sions that we need to make as citizens and as voters and as leaders in our communities there.

There are differences of view. That is legitimate. There will continue to be differences of view. There are extreme differences of view among some of the Members in this place. But the decisions that are made, regardless of that point of view, have to be made on facts.

We all have a right to our own opinion, but we do not have a right to our own facts. I am concerned about it. I am concerned about it. When I go home to Wyoming, people talk about what they perceive, what they have heard in the media, what they have heard from opinion analysts and things of that kind that are not necessarily so. So I hope that for the most part we can talk about the facts.

I received a letter, as a matter of fact, from a lady in Afton, WY, whom I know, who has been very involved in public issues and has been active as a silver-haired legislator. She expressed her concern about some of the decisions that are being made and are being proposed. But I thought the interesting part was that she expressed her particular concern about the future and about her grandchildren and the things that would affect them. She talked about the fact that things are not going well, in her judgment, in the country. And, indeed, they are not where we would like them to be.

I thought it was interesting that she resisted the idea of change. Basically that is what we are talking about here a lot. People will stand up, one after another, decry the situation we are in, talk about the future, talk about kids, talk about taxes, and then resist change, as if things were going to change by continuing to do what we have been doing. It seems to me that is a fairly simple concept. We have not balanced the budget for 26 years. We have got to do something different if we believe, as I do, that we need to balance the budget. I think most people know something of the condition that we are in, some of the conditions that we need to change. One of them is to balance the budget.

Let me read from this column, the Parade magazine column. This author uses this example:

Let's suppose you have an income of \$125,760 that comes not from work but from the contributions of all your friends and relatives who work. You're not satisfied with what \$125,760 can buy this year, so you prepare yourself a budget of \$146,060 and charge the \$20,300 difference to your credit card, on which you're already carrying an unpaid balance of \$472,548 . . . on which you pay interest daily. Multiplied by 10 million times, that's what our government did in the fiscal year of 1994.

That is what we have been doing, putting it on the credit card for these young people who will pay for it. We maxed out the credit card. We will be working in the next month to have to raise the debt limit to \$5 trillion. So balancing the budget, most everybody